



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE OFFICERS ARREST MAN ON WEAPONS VIOLATIONS *Tribal "Police Officer" faces Pierce County Charges*

TACOMA — A man claiming to be a tribal police officer is facing federal weapons charges after being arrested for entering a federal courthouse in Tacoma last week armed with a loaded handgun. Federal Protective Service (FPS) officers with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested Lawrence T. Chambers, 38, at the Tacoma Union Station Federal Courthouse February 16 after he entered the building carrying a .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol.

Chambers, of Eatonville, told ICE officers at the courthouse on Pacific Avenue that he was a police officer with the "Sovereign Government Little Shell Pembina Band of North America". Chambers was initially allowed to check his weapon and handcuffs at a secure location where law enforcement personnel store their weapons during court appearances. He told authorities he was serving as a "bodyguard" for a defendant in federal court.

ICE officers questioned Chambers again as he left the courtroom, examined his "credentials", and subsequently placed him under arrest. He was transported to the Pierce County jail and booked for possessing a firearm on federal property and impersonating an officer.

"We are committed to ensuring that our federal buildings and facilities are safe and secure," said Ken Spitzer, FPS Regional Director. "We take that responsibility very seriously and will vigorously prosecute those who potentially put the public or federal employees in harm's way."

In fiscal year 2004, FPS officers nationwide made more than 4,400 arrests; responded to 430 bomb threats and 877 "suspicious packages"; and prevented more than 540,000 prohibited items, including guns, knives, pepper spray, and other weapons, from being carried into federal facilities.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.